

Standard USG-2: The student will demonstrate an understanding of the foundations of the American republic—its basic democratic principles and its political systems.

USG-2.4 Summarize the significant ideals of the American republic, the discrepancy between those ideals and the realities of American society, and ways that such discrepancies might be reduced through social and political action. (P, H)

Taxonomy Level: 2.4-B Understand Conceptual Knowledge

Previous/future knowledge:

There will have been no previous knowledge of this indicator. Students will have studied the basic ideals of American government, historical examples of failing to adhere to these ideals, and the resultant resolution of these failures. There will have been no attempt to investigate current discrepancies or to analyze proposed solutions of these deficiencies.

It is essential for students to recognize key ideals of American government, such as, limited government, equality, liberty, popular sovereignty, rule of law, due process, etc., and to note that the implementation of these ideals has not always been realized. Students should be able to identify specific historical instances where failures occurred, the reactions to and consequences of these failures. Students should be able to classify types of reactions and utilize these examples, as well as creating new possibilities, to address contemporary deficiencies in the realization of American ideals in hypothesizing how to resolve these deficiencies. There should be a strong focus on the ability of citizens to take action to address social and political concerns in American government

It is not essential for students to know all American ideals that have been abridged or specific examples of the failure of each ideal.

Assessment guidelines:

The objective of this indicator is for students to summarize instances when key principles of American government have not been realized. It is appropriate to have students exemplify instances of these failings and to evaluate historical responses. Furthermore, students should be expected to determine methods and means of using political or social actions to address shortcomings. It would be suitable to have students create “plans of action” to address specific deficiencies in the realization of American values.